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Sonnet Written After a Day Spent in Reading

BY MARY L. NESS

When, having all my labors done, I rest
In sunny contemplation for an hour,
Dreaming of Juliet in her rosy bower,
Of Stella in sweet lyric lines addressed,
Of Melisaunde's bright, starry hair caressed
And prisoned, as it streamed adown her tower,
And all the maidens, in the shining flower
Of youth, who heard love's ecstasy expressed
In fair high words, my heart grows gay and cries
In rapturous pride, for, pondering them at length,
Some flaw in each dear lover it espies
Of faith, or fondness, honor, skill, or strength,—
And then I, laughing, rise up gloriously,
To greet Love's perfect counterpart in thee!

